

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, 15, and 17 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 were rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,779,675 to Cousseau in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,766,919 to Huang et al. Claims 4 and 5 were rejected as unpatentable over Cousseau in view of Huang, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,782,373 to Bianchi. Claims 4 and 6 were rejected as unpatentable over Cousseau in view of Huang, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4, 883,198 to Manska. Claims 18, 19, 21, and 23-25 were rejected as unpatentable over Cousseau in view of Huang, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,123,461 to Belokin, Jr. et al. Claim 22 was rejected as unpatentable over Cousseau in view of Huang and Belokin, and further in view of Manska.

The Office Action asserts that Cousseau discloses the structure of the containers as claimed, except for the heat staking of the panel or pull ring to the end wall of the container. Huang is cited as allegedly rendering such heat staking obvious.

Applicants respectfully disagree that Cousseau teaches all of the structural limitations of the claims except for heat staking. For example, Claim 15 includes the limitation that a pull feature is formed separately from and joined to the panel, and includes a ring of polymer material that overhangs the outer edge of the panel and is heat staked to the end wall. In contrast, Cousseau discloses a pull feature **11** formed as a ring that does not overhang the outer edge of the panel **2**. While Cousseau does disclose a tear film **6** that apparently completely encircles the outer edge of the panel **2**, the tear film **6** is not joined to an end wall of the container, but rather is joined (in an unspecified manner) to the inner surface of the container body side wall **3**. Thus, Cousseau does not disclose any element that corresponds to the ring of Claim 15. None of the other references suggests modifying Cousseau to include such a ring. Accordingly, Claim 15 is patentable for at least these reasons.

Furthermore, independent Claims 1, 15, and 17 each recites that the container includes a generally planar end wall and a side wall joined to an outer periphery of the end wall, and an

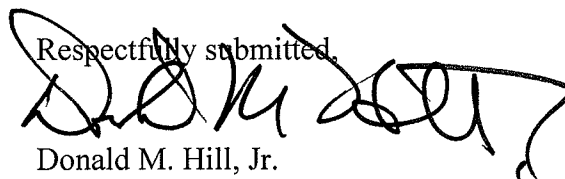
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opening is defined in the end wall. Such structure is not disclosed by Cousseau. Instead, Cousseau's container has a side wall 3, but no generally planar end wall as claimed. The outwardly projecting flange of Cousseau's container does not correspond to the claimed end wall because the side wall 3 does not join with the outer periphery of the flange, but rather joins with the inner periphery of the flange. The other references of record would not have suggested modifying Cousseau to have the structure as claimed in Claims 1, 15, and 17. Therefore, these claims are patentable for at least these reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,


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